

HALSTEAD RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE

FIRST DIVISION OF THE DISTRICT,

For the Year ended 31st December, 1906.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES (NOTIFICATION) ACT, 1889.

The following cases were notified during the year :—

Chicken Pox.

January	1.	Evans, George R., aged 4 years, Earls Colne Railway Station.
"	5.	Cole, Gwen, aged 10 years, George Hotel, Earls Colne.
"	5.	Cole, Daisy, aged 6 years, George Hotel, Earls Colne.
"	5.	Cole, Jack, aged 4 years, George Hotel, Earls Colne.
"	14.	Smith, Sydney, aged 6 years, Earls Colne.
February	4.	Mann, George, aged 4 years, Coggeshall Road, Earls Colne.
"	4.	Mann, Edith, aged 4 months, Coggeshall Road, Earls Colne.
April	5.	Chaplin, Sydney, aged 9 years, Vent Houses, White Colne.
May	2.	Spurgin, Hilda, aged 3 years, Colne Engaine.
"	2.	Spurgin, Jack, aged 2 years, Colne Engaine.
July	9.	Coppin, Hilda, aged 6 years, Halstead Rural.
"	21.	Clayden, Arthur, aged 10 years, Colchester Road, Earls Colne.
December	8.	Parsonson, Emily Alice, aged 6 years, Buxton's Corner, Pebmarsh
"	27.	Mann, Cyril, aged 7 years, Colne Engaine.

Erysipelas.

January	1.	Halls, Mark, aged 50 years, Shepherds Row, Earls Colne.
February	4.	Leatherdale, Mrs. C., aged 50 years, Hill Farm, White Colne.

Scarlet Fever.

January	11.	Bocking, Jessie, aged 11 years, Little Maplestead.
May	7.	Dixey, Dora Lilian, aged 10 years, Brompton Cottages, Colne Engaine.
"	10.	Coppin, Charles, aged 5 years, Elms Hall Road, Colne Engaine.
"	12.	Coppin, Agnes, aged 2 years, Elms Hall Road, Colne Engaine.
"	13.	Gardener, Wilfred, aged 13 years, Colne Engaine.
"	13.	Gardener, John, aged 6 years, Colne Engaine.
"	13.	Newman, Willie, aged 8 years, Overshot Cottage, Colne Engaine.
"	15.	Carter, Teddy, aged 6 years, Colne Engaine.
June	5.	Moss, Rose, aged 4 years, Colne Engaine.
"	13.	Mann, Cyril Arthur, aged 7 years, Colne Engaine.
"	16.	Jarman, Baden, aged 5 years, Colne Engaine.
July	4.	Fleuty, Mary, aged 16 years, Earls Colne.
"	4.	Ripper, Jas. Bertie, aged 4 years, Colne Engaine.
"	20.	Deal, Ernest, aged 14 years, Reedings Farm, White Colne.
"	20.	Deal, Dora, aged 13 years, Reedings Farm, White Colne.
"	20.	Deal, Kate, aged 11 years, Reedings Farm, White Colne.
"	20.	Deal, Edith, aged 7 years, Reedings Farm, White Colne.
"	20.	Deal, Walter, aged 5 years, Reedings Farm, White Colne.
"	29.	Finch, Ernest John, aged 7 years, Colne Engaine.
August	30.	Matthieson, Ronald, aged 6 years, Earls Colne.

Puerperal Fever

January 12. Barnard, Ada, aged 27 years, Russell's Farm, Halstead Rural.

Diphtheria.

June 2. Gilbey, Lilian, aged 14 years, Little Maplestead.

August 9. Dace, Sidney, aged 10 years, White Ash Green.

„ 9. Ellis, Mary, aged 2 years, White Ash Green.

„ 18. Ellis, Winifred, aged 12 years, White Ash Green.

„ 18. Ellis, Victoria, aged 9 years, White Ash Green.

„ 18. Ellis, Frederick, aged 13 years, White Ash Green.

October 21. Ellwood, Kathleen Ellen, aged 11 years, Gosfield.

November 23. Scillitoe, Edna, aged 4 years, Croft Cottages, Earls Colne.

„ 24. Corder, William, aged 4 years, Villas near Earls Colne.

„ 24. Payne, Florence, aged 11 years, High Street, Earls Colne.

„ 28. Arnold, Walter, aged 5 years, Holt Street, Earls Colne.

December 3. Hanmer, Olive, aged 10 years, High Street, Earls Colne.

„ 3. Griffiths, Gwenyth, aged 11 years, Bungalow Cottage, Earls Colne.

„ 9. Bartholomew, Ronald, aged 7 years, Burrows Lane, Earls Colne.

„ 9. Murrells, Frederick Charles, aged 1 year, opposite Gas Works, Earls Colne.

„ 29. Bartholomew, Basil, aged 3 years, Burrows Lane, Earls Colne.

Typhoid Fever.

October 7. Baker, Arthur, aged 12 years, Grammar School, Earls Colne.

It was difficult to explain the introduction of Scarlet Fever to Colne Engaine, but when once started it was kept going by the recklessness of the occupants of infected houses. Eight of the Scarlet Fever cases were admitted to Heddingham Isolation Hospital, and the cottages immediately fumigated, and the remainder were isolated at home and the cottages fumigated on the recovery of the patients. The epidemic of Diphtheria at Earls Colne started in a child Edna Scillitoe, whose mother had been ill with sore throat, but the case was not suspected to be of a diphtheritic nature. The next case, Corder, was a close companion of Scillitoe. These children attended the Infants' School, but used the same playground as the girls, and thus infected Payne, Hanmer, and Griffiths. Arnold and Ronald Bartholomew attended the Infants' School. For Mrs. Murrell's infant it was difficult to explain the origin, but the mother and an elder sister had had sore throats but were not notified as suffering from Diphtheria. Basil Bartholomew contracted the disease from his brother Ronald. Antitoxine as a prophylactic agent was offered to be administered to the unaffected children, but it was declined. As the disease caused a scare among the parents, the attendances dropped to half; it was deemed advisable to recommend School closure, with the happy result that no fresh cases have since occurred. Four of the Diphtheria cases were admitted to the Halstead Urban Isolation Hospital, and the remainder were isolated at home, and when necessary the father and other members of the family were boarded out. The Schools at Colne Engaine, White Colne, and Earls Colne were duly fumigated. The case of Typhoid Fever was an imported one in a pupil of the Earls Colne Grammar School residing at Lavenham in Suffolk.

Zymotic Case Rate.

The Zymotic case rate was 11.56 per thousand of population estimated to middle of 1906.

Systematic Inspection.

In conjunction with Mr. Bolt (Sanitary Inspector), I have inspected Colchester Road, Bridge Street, Holt Street, and part of High Street in Earls Colne; Greenstead Green and Burtons Green in the Halstead Rural District.

Mr. Bolt, who has resigned the Sanitary Inspectorship, informed me on leaving Halstead that he had been able to get most of the defects remedied, and had left few arrears for his successor. Notes on inspection are recorded in the Inspector's journal, which is produced at each meeting of the Council.

**Housing of the
Working Classes
Act, 1890.**

Sixteen new houses have been built in the District—fourteen at Earls Colne and two at White Colne. Water certificates were granted to all the houses erected at Earls Colne, but the water supply of the two cottages at White Colne from a well 20 feet deep on the premises was upon analysis found to contain an excess of organic impurity, due to percolation from the surroundings. An old privy was demolished, and two new closets built. The occupants of these cottages will take water for domestic purposes from a pump 40 yards distant. The owner of this pump has consented to give a written agreement to the owner of the cottages, making the water supply permanent, or as long as required, at a nominal charge. The Council has granted a certificate for occupation.

Water Supply.

The Earls Colne water supply is receiving the attention of the Council.

**Dairies, Cowsheds,
and Milkshops
Order.**

All the registered Dairies have been visited by myself and the Inspector, and found satisfactory. The cowsheds in some instances are not quite satisfactory, but as the new regulations are likely to be soon enforced, I have not thought it desirable to make any special report in individual cases.

**Bakehouses and
Slaughterhouses.**

The Bakehouses and Slaughterhouses of the District have all been inspected, and found in proper order.

**Factory and Work-
Shops Act**

These have all been inspected, and are in a satisfactory condition.

Births.

During the year 88 births were registered, of which 53 were males and 35 females. One illegitimate birth was registered. The birth-rate was 18·77 per thousand of population estimated to middle of 1906. The number of births registered in 1905 was 96, and in 1904, 99. The births were distributed amongst the various parishes as follows :—Halstead Rural 9, Earls Colne 35, White Colne 8, Colne Engaine 13, Pebmarsh 7, Little Maplestead 4, and Gosfield 12.

Deaths

During the year 51 deaths were registered (excluding 6 in the Union Workhouse, Halstead, belonging to the District), 23 being males and 28 females. The corrected death rate was 12·18 per thousand of population estimated to middle of 1906. The number of deaths registered in 1905 was 51, and in 1904, 40. The deaths were distributed in the various parishes as follows :—Halstead Rural 8, Earls Colne 21 (plus 2 in Workhouse), White Colne 0 (plus 1 in Workhouse), Colne Engaine 10, Pebmarsh 6 (plus 2 in Workhouse), Little Maplestead 4, and Gosfield 2 (plus 1 in Workhouse).

Zymotic Deathrate.

The zymotic death rate was 0·21 per thousand of population estimated to middle of 1906, and is very satisfactory. It consisted of one death from Whooping Cough in a child aged four years.

Infant Deathrate.

The infant death rate was 170, and is measured by the proportion of deaths of infants under one year to births registered, and is expressed as so many per thousand births. The infant death rate for England and Wales for 1905 was 128. This year it included 5 from Premature Birth, 5 from Convulsions, and 1 each from Congenital Defects, False Croup, Jaundice, Bronchitis, and Marasmus. This rate is very high, and is attributable to the large number of deaths from premature birth and convulsions occurring a few days after birth. This is doubtless due to ignorance on the part of the mothers as to how to properly feed and rear a baby.

Causes of Death.

Three deaths were due to Pulmonary Phthisis, 4 to Chest Affections (Pneumonia and Bronchitis), 5 to Cancer, 8 to Heart Disease, 3 to Cerebral Hæmorrhage, 1 to Whooping Cough, and 27 to all other diseases.

One was due to suicide by drowning while temporarily insane. A fair proportion have died from Cancer and Heart Disease. The other deaths do not require any comment. Fifteen were those of children under 1 year, 3 between 1 and 5 years of age, none between 5 and 15 years of age, 1 between 15 and 25 years of age, 6 between 25 and 65 years of age, and 26 were over 65 years of age.

The natural increase of population was 31.

Table I.
(annexed).

Contains vital statistics of whole District during 1906 and previous years.

Table II.
(annexed).

Contains vital statistics of separate localities in 1906 and previous years.

Table III.
(annexed).

Contains cases of infectious diseases notified during the year 1906.

Table IV.
(annexed).

Contains causes of, and ages at death during the year 1906.

Table V.
(annexed).

Contains infantile mortality during the year 1906.

